

ARCHDIOCESE SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS**CLERGY BULLETIN**

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CLERGY REVIEW BOARD

Reverend and dear Fathers and Deacons,

Sexual misconduct by priests and deacons violates human dignity, clerical commitment, and the mission of the Church. In some cases it is also illegal. As an abuse of power, it diminishes or destroys that relationship of trust which is so necessary for ministry because such misconduct is a problem which profoundly affects the whole Church.

Ultimately, as Archbishop, I bear the responsibility for making ministerial assignments. I am convinced, however, that my pastoral decisions will be better and wiser to the degree that they are shaped by broad consultation with other members of the faithful.

When a priest or a deacon is the subject of an allegation of sexual misconduct, important and difficult decisions must be made regarding his continuation in ministry. In order to serve as my principal resource in reviewing the decisions my staff and I have made in such cases, I hereby establish a Clergy Review Board. It is my hope that, as a microcosm of the broader Church, this Board will provide a means for being in dialogue with you, the People of God.

The purpose of the Board shall be, in all cases of allegations against clergy of sexual abuse, exploitation or harassment, following the initial decision made by appropriate Archdiocesan officials, to:

1. Review and make recommendations regarding the continuation in ministry of such clergy. The board may also review past cases in which the priest or deacon continues to exercise some form of ministry.
2. Review and make recommendations regarding the return to ministry of priest and deacons following their withdrawal from active ministry
3. Review, to the extent necessary to carry out the above purposes, current programs for treatment, rehabilitation and supervision of such clergy.
4. Review periodically prior decisions relating to the method of clergy assignments and the process involved therein, particularly in view of the discovery or development of new data or procedures by the healing professions.
5. Make recommendations concerning changes to existing policies or the adoption of new policies involving such allegations.
6. To review such other and further cases as I may direct and to further assist me as I may request.

As my principal resource in making such recommendations, the Board shall be directly responsible to me, and shall not be accountable to other officials of the Archdiocese, except as may be necessary for the efficient administration of its business. The Board will establish its own internal rules and procedures with respect to the place and frequency of meetings, and similar matters.

The board shall consist of nine members appointed by me. Three members shall be priests or deacons. Six members shall be lay persons who are not employees of the Central Corporation of the Archdiocese. Three of the lay Catholics shall be psychiatrist, a psychologist or social worker, and an attorney or other person experienced in law enforcement or legal matters. Three members shall be at large members, one of whom may be a victim or the family member of a victim and one of whom may be a non-Catholic. Any one of the at large members may be employed by a parish or other independent agency of the Archdiocese.

Members of the Board shall be appointed for a term of three years or until a successor is appointed. Appointments shall be arranged so that the terms of three members are scheduled to expire each year, including the term of one priest, one professional and one at large member, although initial appointments may be for a different term. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms.

A chairperson of the Board and such other officers as may be required shall be as designated by me.

To assist me and the Board and to act as a liaison, I shall designate a member of my staff to serve in that position.

The Board shall have access to all information in the possession of the Archdiocese provided that any necessary releases or other safeguards have been obtained or taken. All matters considered and discussed and all information presented to the board shall be maintained in a confidential manner, and may only be disclosed, and only to the extent necessary, to the parties involved, to the Archbishop or other persons designated by the Archbishop , as required by church or civil law.

All clergy and religious, employees, and volunteers employed by or working for the Archdiocese are expected to full comply with both the letter and spirit of the process established hereby. Such personnel are to cooperate fully with the Board and its representatives.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

/S/

Most Reverend John R. Roach, D.D.
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

/S/
William S. Fallon
Chancellor